

HONORING THE BUDD LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Budd Lake Volunteer Fire Department, in the Township of Mount Olive, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent! On June 24, 2006 the good citizens of Budd Lake and Mount Olive will celebrate the Fire Company's 75th Anniversary with special festivities.

The Budd Lake Volunteer Fire Department was formally incorporated in 1931 with approximately twenty-three members. A history compiled by the department says the first purchased piece of equipment was a Baby Grand Chevrolet, which the department utilized as a chemical truck. In 1934 the department was granted permission to move from a garage behind Mockler's Tavern into the Municipal Building (which is now the Country Store). The first pumper owned by the department was a Ford purchased by the Township Committee in 1935.

A new firehouse was constructed in 1968 to house all of the department's equipment and a large room for department meetings and fundraising activities. Additions were completed in 1972 and 1987. The latter included two new equipment bays, allowing one piece of apparatus per bay. Prior to this addition, great agility was required to park three large fire trucks, a brush truck and an equipment van in three bays!

Currently, the Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Ken Nelson, has about 40 members. Last year they responded to over 500 alarms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Budd Lake Fire Department on the celebration of 75 years of protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

HONORING SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE LEONARD EDWARDS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and commend Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Leonard Edwards who is retiring in May after nearly 26 years on the bench.

Former Governor Jerry Brown first appointed Edwards to the bench after he had established himself in San Jose, California as a lawyer specializing in juvenile law and criminal defense.

Through the years, Edwards regularly ranked among the highest in local bar association surveys of the judges; and as his speeches and writings spread across the country, his reputation extended well beyond his chambers in San Jose.

In 2004, Judge Edwards received the prestigious William Rehnquist award from the National Center for State Courts, which heralded

him as one of the "most effective and progressive trial judges in America." This honor is especially hard won in a court system whose primary purpose lies with complex and emotionally-charged issues of homes in crisis, juvenile offenders and victims of abuse and violence.

While most judges choose to move as quickly as possible through the assignment of handling juvenile matters, Judge Edwards advocated innovative changes to the system. He fashioned new programs to unify families, deal with domestic violence, improve foster care and reform the approach to both dependents and delinquents in juvenile matters. Edwards is a judge who strongly promoted transparency in an otherwise secretive juvenile court system.

In 1999, Judge Edwards established one of the country's first dependency drug treatment courts. He also founded the Juvenile Court Judges Association of California and was co-founder of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council.

Judge Edwards' innovations in juvenile justice made him an expert sought out by courts across the country. Although he is retiring from the bench, he will continue to focus on important social justice issues. Judge Edwards hopes to serve as a regular juvenile justice consultant for the California Administrative Office of the Courts and will continue to travel the country to provide expertise to juvenile courts elsewhere.

Judge Edwards is also the son of my predecessor in office, the longtime San Jose Democratic congressman Don Edwards. Former Congressman Don Edwards served San Jose honorably in Congress for three decades and was a true mentor to me when I worked for him prior to my election to the seat he occupied after his retirement. San Jose has been blessed by these two men who clearly served its citizenry well.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL RUSSELL W. BALBIRONA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Russell W. Balbirona in recognition of his heroic act performed at the Bureau of Reclamation's Hoover Dam resulting in the saving of a life and to commend him for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award.

Corporal Balbirona displayed outstanding dedication and commitment to the Hoover Dam Police Department when he assisted a fellow officer in preventing a suicide:

On October 14, 2005, Corporal Balbirona responded to a radio call from Sergeant Jeffrey Stone reporting an individual standing on the wall overlooking the Dam. When Corporal Balbirona arrived at the top of the Dam he observed Sergeant Stone demanding that the man get down. The man told Sergeant Stone he was going to jump. Corporal Balbirona approached the man from behind and motioned to Sergeant Stone to distract the man by talking to him. Even with Sergeant Stone's word of encouragement, the man refused to get down.

As the man was reaching for a cigarette that Sergeant Stone offered, Corporal Balbirona

took this opportunity to rush towards him, grabbing him around the waist and pulling him to safety. After both fell to the sidewalk, the man continued to resist but with Sergeant Stone's assistance he was subdued and taken into custody. Prior to being transported to the hospital, the man thanked the officers for saving his life and apologized for creating a disturbance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Corporal Russell W. Balbirona for his exceptional display of courage, quick thinking, and the heroic actions carried out in this life-saving incident. I further congratulate Corporal Balbirona for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. I thank him for his distinguished service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF UNRWA INTEGRITY ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the UNRWA Integrity Act of 2006 with Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA). This bill ensures that American taxpayers are not funding terrorism through contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

UNRWA was created in 1949 as a temporary agency to provide relief services to Palestinian refugees. It is the only United Nations agency dedicated to one specific group of refugees. The United States is the UNRWA's largest donor, contributing more than \$2 billion since 1950. In 2005 alone, the United States donated \$108 million, constituting nearly a fourth of UNRWA's annual budget.

Yet, there is a startling lack of accountability over UNRWA's financial activities. An analysis of UNRWA's most recent internal audit performed by the United Nations Board of Auditors finds vague summary totals. Account after account in this audit describe line items as "Cash Assistance" or "Unearmarked Contribution." At least \$43 million of UNRWA's budget is undefined. As American taxpayers, we are entitled to better accounting standards.

With Hamas' rise to leadership of the Palestinian Authority, we must ensure that contributions to UNRWA do not end up in the hands of terrorists. This is no idle concern. UNRWA was suspected in terrorist activity involving terrorists using UNRWA ambulances to transport weapons. Furthermore, UNRWA employees use their posts to run for office on Hamas' ticket. When questioned on Hamas candidates working for UNRWA, the Commissioner General refused to comment.

The UNRWA Integrity Act ensures money designated for humanitarian assistance does not fall into the hands of terrorists. The bill requires the President must certify to Congress that UNRWA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an internationally recognized, independent auditing firm; does not knowingly provide employment, refuge, assistance or support of any kind to members of foreign terrorist organizations; and is not an impediment to finding a lasting solution for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza. The bill

also calls upon the State Department to assess the prospect of phasing out services provided by UNRWA, and examine anti-Semitic bias in UNRWA's educational material.

Tying future U.S. assistance to UNRWA to an independent, internationally recognized expenditure audit will ensure U.S. taxpayer money does not support terrorist organizations like Hamas. I want to thank my good friend Congressman TOM LANTOS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this bill to bring accountability to UNRWA. By doing so, we can take positive steps towards solving the refugee problem without allowing U.S. dollars to fall into the hands of terrorists.

CONGRATULATING OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL ARTIST FROM THE
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers to raise young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 45 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2006 Annual Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works, of art are exceptional!

We have 45 students participating. That is a tremendous response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Sara Gilbert from West Morris Mendham High School for her work entitled "Vacancy." Second place was awarded to Lucy Tan from Livingston High School for her work entitled "1930's Icon." Third place was awarded to Skena Ganguly from Bridgewater Raritan High School for her work entitled "Woods."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official Record. Home schooled: Phyllis Schlafly's "Circle of Light."

Madison High School: Joey Mottola's "A look into deep Blu," Chloe Unger's "Reflection," Philip Hinge's "Self Portrait," and Pam Dughi's "Self."

Mount Olive High School: Sophia Sobers's "Loss of Innocence," Andrew Schweighardt's "Omas Pickled Peppers," Jessica Masterson's "FLIP," and Meghan Marvin's "There Goes the Neighborhood."

Ridge High School: Wyatt Regan's "Burning Bush," Alan Yang's "Flight of the Mind," Jenna Buesser's "Detained Debris," and Hannah Barkley's untitled work.

Dover High School: Erick Szentmiklosy's untitled work.

Morris Hills High School: Brandon Rodleewitz's "Partners in Peace," and Krupa Patel's "Visions."

Morris Knolls High School: Lindsay Mehringer's "coucher de soleil," Tanya

Groszew's "Odds and Ends," Cheryl Brown's "The telephone Call," and Tiffany Chao's "Lake Tahoe."

Boonton High School: Jennifer Hitchings' "Profile," Wyatt Sikora's "Mind Mesh," Sarah La Placa's "unexpected," and Karinya Santiago's "Mom."

Bridgewater Raritan High School: Allison Boucher's "Zoom In," Skena Ganguly's "Woods," and Amanda Ayod's "What's in My Purse."

Roxbury High School: Mark McDevitt's "Still Life # 3," Dana Windt's "Morris Study # 5," Deborah Brooks' "Proverb # 5," and Amanda Baratta's untitled work.

Livingston High School: Lucy Tan's "1930's icon," Stacey Berson's "B Minor," Genna Cherichello's "Mannequin in Orange and Blue," and Tanya Goldberg's "Complementary Expressions."

Montville High School: Yi Ming He's "Central Perc," April Ennis's "Springtime Enchantment," Joyce Chung's "Checkmate," and Kaitlin Michaud's "Little Sister."

Millburn High School: Albert Choi's "Self Portrait," Ann Trocchia's "Self Portrait Ann," and Erica Sutton's "Self—Portrait."

West Morris Mendham: Sara Gilbert's "Vacancy," David Brunell-Brutman's "Juggernaut," and Heather Schultz's "Relative Motion."

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Every time a vote is called, I walk through that corridor and am reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women.

Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE
JAMES R. GRUBE FOR HIS WORK
AT THE UNITED STATES BANK-
RUPTCY COURT IN THE NORTH-
ERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and commend the Honorable James R. Grube upon his retirement from an almost 18-year career on the bench serving the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of California.

Judge Grube was appointed to the bench on August 12, 1988 after practice as an attorney specializing in bankruptcy and general insolvency matters. Prior to his practice of law, Judge Grube served in the United States Army as a Captain with the 11th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam. In 1987, shortly before his appointment to the bench, Jim was elected to the 500 Best Lawyers in America in recognition of the quality of his legal work in the field of bankruptcy.

During Judge Grube's tenure he has led the court in a number of areas to improve cost and delay reduction in the courts. In the mid 1990's, Judge Grube led the implementation

of a telephonic hearing system that reduced the cost of litigation in the San Jose, California Court by approximately \$300,000 per month. This system allows attorneys to make court appearances from their offices by telephone on all routine matters as well as other matters of their choosing. The system has become widely used by the bar and saved thousands of dollars in billable hours for clients.

Judge Grube is the author of numerous procedural and substantive guidelines adopted throughout the District and nationwide that provides guidance to counsel and reduce unnecessary legal expense. He is also recognized as an outstanding and frequent lecturer. In 2000 he spoke nationwide about the technology bankruptcies that are typical in Silicon Valley and because of the unique caseload of bankruptcy courts in Silicon Valley, he has authored many ground-breaking opinions in the intellectual property field.

As a strong advocate of education, Jim served on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Education Committee. He has imparted his experience and wisdom by being a mentor to his law clerks and has stood as an example to other lawyers in methods to approach legal problems.

Judge Grube participated in establishing the Don Edwards Inn of Court and has promoted civility and professionalism in the community through his leadership. Judge Grube has also participated in both the San Jose Rotary Club and the Hollister Rotary Club.

I know I join many others in Santa Clara County in thanking Judge Grube for his contributions and wish him well upon his retirement from the bench.

BUSINESS LEADERS TO BE RECOG-
NIZED BY NORTH CENTRAL OHIO
ENTREPRENEURIAL HALL OF
FAME

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of three distinguished Ohioans being honored by the North Central Ohio Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame on May 5.

Shirley Monica began her career with the McDonald's organization in 1978, when she and her husband invested in three stores in the Mansfield area. In 1980, despite a dismal economy, Shirley listened to her instincts and opened a store on her own—silencing her detractors a year later when the store was named the highest-volume store in the United States. Today, Shirley and her family own nine McDonald's franchises in north central Ohio. Her stores have repeatedly been recognized for their service speed, quality, and overall operational excellence.

Shirley has made her career about more than simply developing restaurants. Her co-workers and employees speak of Shirley fondly as a leader, mentor, and friend. Her drive for perfection and faith in people make Shirley truly worthy of induction into the Hall of Fame.

Also being inducted is Bill Burgett, a longtime friend who founded the Kokosing Construction Company in 1950. Based in Fredericktown, Kokosing is a regional leader